



STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

For Meeting Date: January 12, 2012

Agenda Item No. 12: Presentation of 2011 SMARA Surface Mine Inspection Reports for Nine Surface Mining Operations for Acceptance Consideration by the State Mining and Geology Board.

INTRODUCTION: The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) serves as the lead agency under SMARA for forty-five (45) individual surface mining operations, including operations located in three counties (Alpine County, El Dorado County and Yuba County), eight (8) San Francisco Bay marine dredging operations, and seven (7) cities that do not have mining ordinances. SMARA inspection reports for nine surface mining operations are being presented for acceptance consideration.

MINE INSPECTION REPORTS FOR THE SMGB'S ACCEPTANCE CONSIDERATION:

The 2011 SMARA mine inspection reports to be presented at the SMGB's January 12, 2012, regular business meeting for acceptance consideration are as follows:

- Atkinson Pit (91-19-0004), City of Compton
- Super Creek Quarry (91-33-0003), City of Desert Hot Springs
- Garnet Pit (91-33-0031), City of Palm Springs
- Santa Paula Materials (91-56-00XX), City of Santa Paula
- Knife River Hallwood (91-58-0002), County of Yuba
- Sperbeck Quarry (91-58-0004), County of Yuba
- Wheatland Clay Mine (91-58-0007), County of Yuba
- SRI Stringer Pit I (91-58-0022), County of Yuba
- SRI Stringer Pit II (91-58-0023), County of Yuba

A summary of violations, corrective measures and inspector's recommendations for the above surface mining operations are presented below.

Atkinson Pit (CA Mine ID# 91-19-0004), City of Compton:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on December 14, 2011.

It is recommended that a revised financial assurance cost estimate be provided to the SMGB per CCR Section 3804(c).



Executive Officer's Report

Super Creek Quarry (CA Mine ID# 91-33-0033), City of Desert Hot Springs:

No new violations were noted at time of inspection on December 15, 2011. Four ongoing violations are noted:

- Slope instability: Existing tailings slopes are over steepened in some areas and have not been demonstrated to be stable.
- Inadequate soil erosion control measures: Fine material continues to erode from the tailings slopes in amounts that could potentially impact Super Creek if aggressive monitoring and maintenance of sediment catchment structures is not adhered to.
- Off-site encroachment: Surface mining activities have occurred beyond the boundary of the approved reclamation plan. Inadequate implementation of soil erosion control measures during past mining activities has resulted in impacts to the Super Creek drainage outside of the approved reclamation plan boundary.
- Inadequate revegetation efforts: The revegetation program has not been implemented in accordance with the approved reclamation plan.

The following corrective measure is offered:

- An amended reclamation plan that adequately addresses the above violations should be completed.

The following recommendations are offered:

- The financial assurance amount should be recalculated based upon further direction from the SMGB pertaining to tailings slope stability alternatives and subsequent SMGB and OMR staff reviews of an adequately revised amended reclamation plan.

Garnet Pit (CA Mine ID# 91-33-0031), City of Palm Springs:

No violations were noted at time of inspection on December 15, 2011.

Two corrective measures are noted regarding the two erosional gullies that have formed on the southern property line and on the northeastern pit wall. It is recommended that the operator and the CVWD immediately agree to and implement mitigation measures in order to prevent further erosion and expansion of the 2010 gully on the southern property line. It is

also recommended that the operator immediately repair the 2011 gully on the northeastern pit wall.

A revised financial assurance cost estimate is past due to the SMGB per CCR Section 3804(c). The revised financial assurance cost estimate should account for any increased costs associated with backfilling the 2010 gully formed along the southern property line, and for repair of the 2011 gully on the northeastern pit wall.

Santa Paula Rock (CA Mine ID# 91-56-00XX), City of Santa Paula:

Presentation of this inspection report is deferred.

Knife River Hallwood (CA Mine ID# 91-58-0002), County of Yuba:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on September 23, 2011.

Sperbeck Quarry (CA Mine ID# 91-58-0004), County of Yuba:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on September 29, 2011.

Wheatland Clay Pit (CA Mine ID# 91-58-0007), County of Yuba:

No violations were noted at time of inspection on September 23, 2011.

The following corrective measure is noted:

1. A revised financial assurance cost estimate should be submitted to the SMGB per California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 3804(c).

SRI Stringer Pit I (CA Mine ID# 91-58-0022), County of Yuba:

No new violations were noted at time of inspection on September 28, 2011. One ongoing violation, which was originally noted in a Notice of Violation issued by the SMGB on April 30, 2010, was observed to be nearly completely mitigated at time of inspection. The violation involves encroachment of mined materials across a segment of the approved reclamation plan boundary in the northeastern portion of the site. It is expected that the areas still affected by this previous violation will be completely mitigated during 2012.

One corrective measure was noted regarding the need for a revised financial assurance cost estimate to be submitted to the SMGB per CCR Section 3804(c).

SRI Stringer Pit II (CA Mine ID# 91-58-0023), County of Yuba:

No violations were noted at time of inspection September 28, 2011. One corrective measure is noted regarding the need for the operator to submit a revised financial assurance cost estimate to the SMGB per California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 3804(c).

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Executive Officer recommends that the SMGB accept the eight 2011 SMARA surface mining inspection reports, and transmit the findings contained therein to the SMARA lead agencies and mine operators.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

To accept eight 2011 SMARA surface mine inspection reports:

Mr. Chairman, in light of the information before the SMGB today, I move that the SMGB accept the 2011 SMARA mine inspection reports for the Atkinson Brick Pit, Super Creek Quarry, Garnet Pit, Knife River Hallwood Plant, Sperbeck Quarry, Wheatland Clay Mine, SRI Stringer Pit 1 and SRI Stringer Pit 2 as complete, and transmit the findings to the respective SMARA lead agencies and mine operators.

Respectfully submitted:



Stephen M. Testa
Executive Officer